

AMENDMENTS TO LB 522

Introduced by Natural Resources

1 1. Strike original section 1 and insert the following new
2 section:

3 Section 1. If the Department of Natural Resources issues
4 closing notices prohibiting surface water appropriators from
5 storing or diverting natural or instream flows for irrigation to
6 comply with an interstate compact or decree, then the department
7 shall provide reasonable compensation for affected water users
8 through the affected irrigation districts. The irrigation districts
9 shall use such compensation to reasonably compensate surface water
10 users who have had to forgo the use of water. Funding for such
11 compensation shall be provided through the General Fund.

12 For purposes of this section, reasonable compensation
13 means the equivalent to the current compensation for dry-year
14 leases used by the natural resources district in which the
15 irrigation district is located for the conversion of acres from
16 irrigated acres to dry-land acres for a period of one year. Or,
17 if the irrigation district is located in more than one natural
18 resources district, the equivalent of the average of each such
19 natural resources districts' compensation to dry-year leases used
20 by each such natural resources district for the conversion of acres
21 from irrigated acres to dry-land acres for a period of one year.